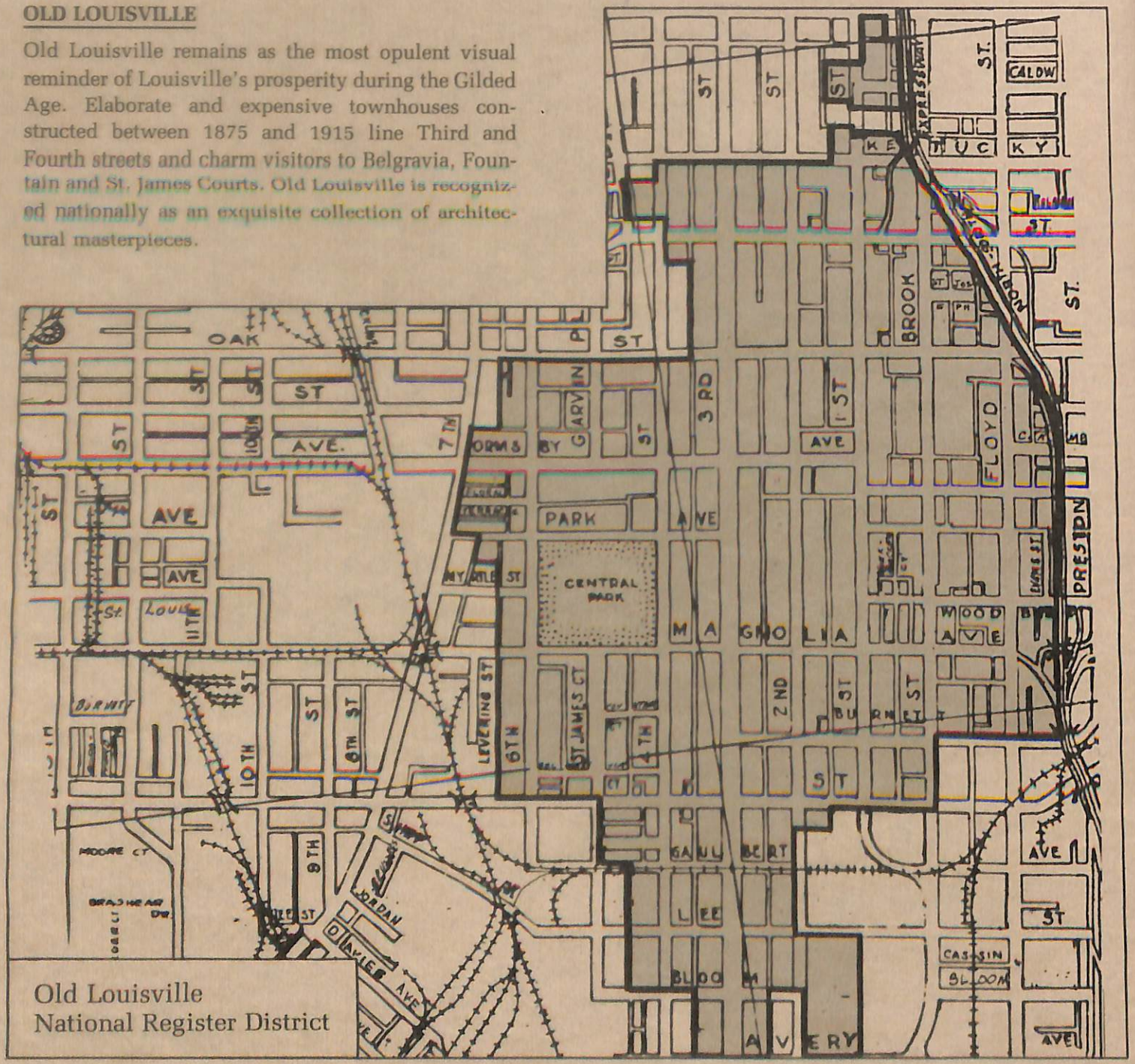
OLD LOUISVILLE

Old Louisville remains as the most opulent visual reminder of Louisville's prosperity during the Gilded Age. Elaborate and expensive townhouses constructed between 1875 and 1915 line Third and Fourth streets and charm visitors to Belgravia, Fountain and St. James Courts. Old Louisville is recognized nationally as an exquisite collection of architectural masterpieces.



Old Louisville
National Register District

Located directly south of the central business district, Old Louisville suffered most dramatically of any local urban neighborhood from post-World War II urban flight, but conversely has enjoyed, in the past ten years, a remarkable revitalization. The tenacity of several grassroots neighborhood organizations and the increasing appreciation of the architectural, cultural, and economic resources in Old Louisville have made it an example, par excellence, of the utility of our historic built environment.

Even before the Tax Reform Act of 1976 which, for the first time, offered an investor tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic property, Old Louisville was on the upswing. Since that time, and particularly with the greatly improved incentives of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, more historic rehabilitation projects have occurred in Old Louisville than in any other district.

Besides the large, predominantly brick residences which grace the major north-south arteries, more modest but beautifully detailed Victorian residences of great stylistic diversity lie on the outer edges of the district. There are still large numbers of these structures which would be good investment tax credit projects. Brook Street, Floyd Street, and Sixth Street have experienced the most recent wave of development as the larger more distinctive structures gained attention early in the neighborhood rejuvenation.

The volume of certified projects and consequently the supply of rental units, is apparently keeping pace with the demand for quality housing. Old Louisville continues to be the most popular of Louisville's National Register districts for development.

Although these two buildings were constructed nearly 40 years apart, both contribute to the district.

An ambitious project in Old Louisville includes removal of non-contributing commercial additions and substantial rehabilitation for residential use.